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CPYRGHT

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## A Mere 5 Trillion, 600 Billion Would Ransom All Red-Held Folk

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To the Editor of The Star:

I have read in your paper where Mr. James Donovan is about to conclude the release of some 1,100 Cuban prisoners from the Bay of Pigs invasion for \$62,000,000.

What interested me most was that it was suggested that it might be paid in the main from CIA money that happened to be available, and actually delivered in surplus agricultural products and drugs. If my figures are reasonably correct, it follows that the price is about \$56,000 per man.

This raises interesting possibilities. Not long ago I was in Jamaica, an island where I have spent a portion of my time each year since 1954. There I was reliably informed by U.S. State Department aids in the bar of the Kingston-Sheraton that Castro now holds as political prisoners— at the Isle of Pines, in Camaguey, and at the 1,500-mile range defensive rocket sites at Pinar Del Rio—some 17,000 additional prisoners. They are all in jail for the same offense as the prisoners from the Bay of Pigs—active opposition to the communism in Cuba.

It seems to me we have here a solution to the whole problem so ably solved in miniature by the energetic Mr. Donovan. A quick computation indicates that for less than one billion dollars, at the going price, we could get all the prisoners out of Cuba. In addition, we could substantially reduce our surplus grain stocks.

This thing really could go a long way toward solving the cold war. Take Berlin, for example. If all the people who wanted out were bought out, they could take down the wall. I have numerous friends in Indianapolis who have been trying for 17 years to get relatives out of Latvia and Estonia. In all, I have been told that there are only about 100 million people in the captive lands of Poland, East Germany, Romania,

lands already mentioned. It is obvious that for only five trillion, 600 billion dollars we can solve the whole problem.

If they would again be so gracious as to accept payment in kind—say, Cadillacs and Lincoln Continentals—this would amount to four or five automobiles for every man, woman and child in Russia.

Then as Neville Chamberlain used to say so succinctly, we could be sure to have "peace in our time."

JAMES R. GREGORY  
President, United States  
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